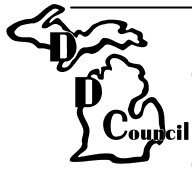


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# Monday Update

July, 2006

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## **Bill introduced to require use of qualified interpreters**

A bill that would require many agencies and businesses to provide qualified sign language interpreters has been introduced in the state House.

HB 6087 was introduced May 18 by Rep. John Gleason. If it becomes law, it could have a very positive impact on deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind adults and children who use interpreter services. The law would affect courts, police, schools, colleges, hospitals, doctor offices, banks, credit unions, employers and lawyers. It amends the Deaf Person's Interpreter Act of 1982 that covers the courts and administrative hearings only.

For a copy of the bill, go to [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org) and enter "6087" in the bill search number box.

Under the proposed law, those agencies and offices that provide interpreters under state and federal laws must hire qualified interpreters. Michigan's deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind residents have experienced negative consequences from using non-qualified interpreters in the past. The Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth has provided input for the bill. The new law would require the division to generate rules covering requirements for certification and testing of qualified interpreters.

It may be important for all self-advocates and advocates that this bill pass into law. Contact your state representative and senator now to tell them how important this bill is to everyone in Michigan, including people with disabilities.

## **June forum covered vital voting issues; regional forums to follow**

The Voting Forum held in Lansing on June 6 provided representatives of statewide advocacy groups with a look at the progress and issues tied to the upcoming two Michigan 2006 elections. The gathering also paved the way for up to six regional forums to be held around the state on the same topics.

Highlight of the gathering was introduction of the ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal voting machine for people with disabilities.

The machine (please see the June issue of Monday Update for more) uses a paper ballot similar to the now-standard ballot to be used statewide starting with the August, 2006 primary election.

The AutoMARK ballots are fed into the polling place's scanner along with all the rest of the ballots. It has a number of means of marking the ballot, including touch screen and sip/puff tube. At least one machine will be in every polling place for the August election.

Besides the voting machine demonstration, on the program was a talk by former state representative Lynn Jondahl. He reminded attendees that everyone's vote counts and discussed the loss to the community and the electorate if a person chooses not to vote.

Mark Brewer, state Democratic Party chair, suggested methods for getting out the vote: making focused lists, phones, door-to-door, and repeating the "don't forget to vote" numerous times to the same target audience. The narrower the focus, the more effective the message.

Chris Thomas from the state's Bureau of Elections discussed the Secretary of State's efforts to make all voting sites accessible and the ease of voter registration. He also talked about the new voting machines for people with disabilities and the process that ended in selection of the AutoMARK.

### ***Free rides to the polls***

Pat Gilbert of the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) said they would be offering free rides to voting sites again this year. All riders need is a valid voter registration card. Gilbert said other transit providers in the state also offer the same benefit. Public transit users and advocates should query their local transportation services about providing rides on election day. Those communities who do not provide rides should be encouraged to do so.

A representative of the League of Women Voters of Michigan described the resources of the League in this election year, such as candidate profiles and discussions of both sides of a ballot proposal. She also talked about how to become a precinct delegate, beginning with registering to vote and filing a precinct delegate Affidavit of Identity with the local clerk.

Simone Lightfoot of the Detroit Chapter of the Detroit NAACP warned of the effects on people with disabilities should Proposal B – “Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Petition” – pass. The pure discrimination contained in the proposal could mean people with disabilities may be passed over for jobs based on their “differences.”

Tom Masseau of P&A spoke on his organization’s efforts to permit voter access at all sites. The advocates worked directly with the Secretary of State to get the word to county, city and township clerks about the law requiring accessibility.

Sponsors were: Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, SILC and MARO. Up to six regional forums are being planned for this summer. The first will be held at the State Independent Living Councils’ office in Lansing.

## **Speaking of elections....**

It’s July – one month closer to the 2006 elections. First is the state primary election on Aug. 8. Then comes the state general election on Nov. 7.

Are you registered to vote? You must register at least 30 days before an election, so to vote on Aug. 8, a person must be registered by July 8. If you miss voting in the primary election

because you are not registered, you should register by Oct. 7 to vote in the general election.

By now, current state representatives and senators – those who are not term limited – are busy campaigning. If there is another candidate in their same party, they will be meeting in the Aug. 8 primary election. There is only one candidate for governor from each party, so no primary contest for them, even though their names will appear on the primary ballot.

New candidates are also busy letting voters know they are in the running for office. For example, there are two Republican candidates in the primary running for U.S. senator. The winner of the primary will take on the incumbent, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, in the November general election.

Chances are the candidates from your area will be home some time during the summer to campaign. Contact their offices. Study the issues that affect your life. Find out where they stand on the key issues. If a candidate appeals to you, you may want to volunteer to help with his or her campaign.

Above all, make certain you, your family and friends are registered!

## **Getting a Michigan Personal ID card can be interesting**

In many cases, there is nothing more important than being able to provide identification of who you are. A Michigan Personal Identification Card (PID) is the answer. These are issued by the Michigan Secretary of State (SOS), just like driver licenses.

A few things you must be able to prove when getting an ID card for the first time: (1) that you live in the state of Michigan, and; (2) that you are who you say you are. This is done by showing documents at a local SOS office.

(1) Proving you are a resident is important to the state in terms of guarding against identity theft and national security. You prove you live in Michigan by showing a document that includes your name and Michigan address. The SOS web site (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/>) recommends any one of these documents to prove you are a resident of Michigan:

- Valid student ID from a Michigan school, college, or university displaying a Michigan address
- Michigan school, college, or university records containing the student's name and Michigan address such as tuition invoices, receipts, class schedules, report cards, or transcripts
- Paycheck or pay stub with the name and address of the employer (please provide the phone number of the employer if it is not listed on the document)
- A gas, water, sewer, electricity, land-line phone, or cable television bill (NOTE: cell phone bills are not acceptable)
- Bank statement
- Life, home, auto, or health insurance policy (No insurance binders or registration certificates. Please provide the phone number of the insurance agent if it is not listed on the document.)
- Mortgage document or rental lease agreement (please provide the phone number of the leasing agency or landlord for rental lease agreements)
- Government documents issued by federal, state, or local units of government (such as tax assessments, tax receipts, professional licenses).

(2) The second thing you must prove is who you are. This means showing the state three acceptable identification documents. The documents must show your full name and date of birth. A good example of this is a birth certificate. SOS calls this a primary document. Other primary documents include a passport, military photo ID card, or an out-of-state driver license. All you need to show them at the SOS office in your community is one primary document.

You also need two more documents, called secondary documents. SOS suggests 15 different secondary documents that go from a driver license from another country other than Canada, to a divorce decree, to a school photo ID card or a non-immigrant visa. The full list is on the SOS web site. These two documents may be tough to get. Definitely ask family members for help in finding documents.

### ***Missing some paperwork?***

If you think this might be a problem – coming up with all those documents - you are not alone. It is possible you do not have all of these documents. If you do, go to your SOS branch office and apply for a Michigan Personal ID Card. Remember to also register to vote while you are there!

More than likely, you do not have all these documents. In that case, you may need some help getting an ID card. The first thing you might do is call your SOS office and tell them your problem: you want an ID card and there is no way you are going to be able to come up with all the required documents. They may be willing to work with you and possibly accept some other proof of your residency and birth. If you cannot call SOS yourself, maybe a family member or friend can help.

If you have a supports coordinator, he or she should agree to help you get the card by working with the local SOS office. Some

Community Mental Health Boards (CMH) have programs in place to help self-advocates obtain ID cards.

Allegan CMH, for example, has a plan that includes obtaining court records such as a birth certificate, or adoption or guardianship documents. Allegan has found that the SOS may also accept Medicaid or Medicare or other insurance cards. Once all possible documents have been collected, Allegan writes a letter to the SOS branch office telling why the ID card applicant does not have the documents on the list. The letter, along with the documents, are taken by the applicant to the SOS office. This information is then sent to the Lansing SOS main office for approval.

Other advocacy groups are working to help with ID cards. The Arc of Calhoun County has been working with the SOS branch office in Marshall to learn what they will accept in the way of documents. They then put together an information sheet that was distributed across the county.

If these situations are not the case in your area you may wish to get a hold of Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service (P&A) and ask them to contact the SOS on your behalf. You can call P&A toll free at 1-800-288-5923. P&A is working to standardize and simplify the process of getting a Michigan Personal ID card. The ideal would be a statewide policy that would allow for additional documentation.

## **How to get around on a holiday**

In the days leading up to a national holiday, such as the recent Fourth of July, the media always have a news item on how many millions of Americans are traveling. Except for the cost of gasoline, that's great...unless you rely on public transportation for your holiday travel.



People with disabilities who do not drive nor have family and friends to provide transportation are often stuck and cannot go to the beach or fireworks or attend church services on Dec. 25. That is because many transit services close down for a holiday. It can be expensive to pay bus drivers and mechanics overtime holiday wages and even if the bus company could pay, many transit workers want the day off, too.

So it is a matter of economics and personnel requirements. But the purpose of having public transit in the first place is to keep society moving, whether it's taking a wheelchair user to the shopping mall or another person with a disability to work or church, or getting a personal assistant who uses the bus to get to your apartment. The fact the service is not available on holidays needs to be changed. It is consumers of these services that will have to demand the change.

### ***Go right to the source***

The place to begin seeking a change in transit services is the provider itself. You have to create demand. This means friends, family, advocates and other self-advocates calling and writing letters to transit company management.

Others that should be contacted include local policymakers. This would include the mayor of your town, or the city administrator, plus your state representative and senator. Don't forget your township board and city commissioners. If these key people can be made to see how important holiday travel is to you, other consumers and local businesses, maybe they can help convince the transit service to begin operating on holidays.

Your next step might be to serve on a transit company group. One is the Local Advisory Committee (LAC). This board deals with special transit needs, such as providing services for people with disabilities. Each transit company that accepts specialized

services money from the state has to have an LAC. Contact the transit company office to find out when the LAC meets next. Attend the meeting and let them know how you feel about transportation during holidays and any other transit concerns you have. Also check to see if there are any openings.

Another group to join is the transit service's board. It actually runs the transit company and you can serve on it. Again, contact the office to learn if there are any openings on the board and when the next meeting is being held and attend it.

As an active self-advocate, you may also wish to join the DD Council's Transportation Work Group. This is a very busy group and is always working to improve public transportation services for everyone in Michigan. Think about attending a Transportation Work Group meeting, especially by telephone. Call the Council office – 517-334-6123 - or go to its web site – [michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://michigan.gov/ddcouncil) – to find out more about the work group.

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## **Council committee and work group meeting minutes**

### ***Family Support Work Group***

April 19, 2006

Members Present: Lori Goike, Jackie Igafo-Te'o, Carlyne Allston-Smith, Audrey Craft, Earnestine Zahraei, Belinda Evans-Ebio, Karen Brantley, Tracy Vincent

Welcome and introductions were done.

Audrey motioned to approve the March 15, 2006 minutes. Carolyn seconded. Motion approved.

## Announcements

- The Planning for the Future Plan Language was reviewed. The title was changed to Families and Individuals Planning for their Future. This project will be presented at the June 13 Council Retreat.
- The FSWG recruitment letter was reviewed. It was suggested to translate the letter into Spanish and Arabic. The group identified several agencies to send the letter to. It was suggested to include logos of organizations at the bottom of the letter so individuals are familiar with organizations they are affiliated with. We may possibly get a bigger response. A follow-up letter will be written to those individuals who have not attended a meeting in a while.
- It was suggested to collaborate with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) to learn pending legislation, upcoming bills, etc.
- Don't forget to view the FSWG's website [www.familysupportworkgroup.org](http://www.familysupportworkgroup.org) for updated information and resources.

## Discuss Parent Support Groups

Parent resources are limited and services need to be streamlined. Parents not being able to find the resources and services in their communities is an issue. More community events for parents and kids are needed so they can support each other. A parent felt that there is a void in services and those services are not meeting parents' needs. Jackie recommended a book called "Planning for the Future" which can be found on the Bridges4Kids website [www.bridges4kids.org](http://www.bridges4kids.org).

Parent support groups were discussed. Jackie shared that often she cannot physically attend a group but that "Bridges 4 Kids" has a good online support group. Carolyn shared that often family

support groups work for awhile and then diminish due to parents busy schedules. Andre mentioned that at the Detroit 360 meetings, parents are able to bring their children because someone will watch them while the meeting is going on. Belinda Evans-Ebio from Parent Support and Advocacy Program, Inc., based in Detroit, said they offer parent support groups as well as other parent trainings.

#### Plan for 2006 Family Gathering

The group started to develop the agenda for the Council meeting/Family Gathering. This task will be completed at the May meeting.

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### ***Multicultural Committee***

May 8, 2006

#### Present:

Terrie Hylton (chair); Rick Van Horn; Dee Florence; Mitzi Allen; Mae Golden; Pam Hall; Alicia Vasquez (phone); Jacque Day; Sophie Baker, Patrick McSherry; Andre Robinson (phone); Maria Cebreco; Ralph Moore (phone).

Call to Order: by Chairperson Hylton at 1:10 p.m.

April, 2006's meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

This month's agenda reviewed and approved.

#### Introductions:

Welcome to first-timers Alicia Vasquez from Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, and Ralph Moore from the Tuscola RICC.

The Committee extended in-person congratulations to Cebreco on being voted Miss Wheelchair Michigan.

*Old Business:*

A. Rick Van Horn reported that a check with the executive director of the Council, Vendella Collins, indicated that the Committee could not create a web site independent of the Council's current page as part of the Michigan Department of Community Health's web site. Instead, the Committee can expand the information on its existing page on the Community Health site.

B. Allen reported that the Committee is still in the process of gathering resources for future outreach use. Hylton reminded all members to contribute resources at will. She contributed a web site for festivals, such as the African World Festival. Moore gave the 800 number for the Michigan Indian Quarterly magazine.

Golden announced the Flint area's Juneteenth celebration June 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Allen announced that the Council's grant proposal and review system lack people of color. This is specially important in light of the most recent Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Committee-created grant "Strengthening Relationships for Diversity." She asked that Committee members provide their organizations' mailing lists for the RFP mailing.

Hylton reviewed the Aug. 8 repeat diversity coordinator training session. The Committee is considering a three-hour breakout session during the September RICC retreat.

Allen reported she attended the annual diversity conference put on in Midland by several RICCs. Based on her experiences there, it is evident that RICC members are not clear on elements of

outreach and the Committee should keep this in mind when training RICC diversity coordinators and advising RICCs in general about outreach. Objectives, goals and outcomes are not being established.

Allen reported further on the Midland Conference, "Drums and Diversity." The African drummer was entertaining, Allen said, but entertainment is not diversity. A spaghetti dinner is not outreach. The Midland conference was geared more toward supported employment or self-determination. Missed was a great chance to showcase RICC outreach efforts. There was no obvious diversity that Allen could see. Of the 150 people, only three were people of color. There was no apparent outreach to the American Indians who live in the area.

It is obvious from this that RICC diversity training needs some work, that perhaps the Committee hasn't really given the coordinators enough tools to develop real outreach plans. Hylton agreed. Outreach needs to be a part of the RICCs' work plans. Cebreco suggested creating a survey. Hylton suggested a Committee member be present at the upcoming May 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> teleconferences for changes in the RICC certification packet.

Hall suggested sending a personal letter to the coordinators saying the Committee is a resource as the RICC develops its work plan....how can we help you? The letter should also go to the RICC chairs.

Hylton suggested review all RICC work plans for the presence of outreach. Day said that sounds like policing the RICCs. The Committee should be better guides rather than policemen. Baker agreed saying the Committee maybe had not provided good guidance to the RICCs.

Hylton instructed the Committee to consider good and bad examples of RICC outreach. These ideas will be compiled and sent to the RICC coordinators and chairs. Ideas should be sent to Allen no later than May 19.

### New Business:

Hylton asked for suggestions for Committee activities in '07, to be reflected in the next work plan, which will be presented at the Council's November meeting. The work plan should be constructed by September. Seven ideas were generated in response:

Hylton would like to have (1) the Diversity Focus essays put on the Council web page. Hall would like to see (2) a stronger statement in the work plan letting diversity coordinators and others know the Committee is a resource for RICCs and coordinators and happy to provide input and feedback on projects and activities so that they include outreach.

Allen suggested maybe (3) diversity coordinators or an alternate should attend 50 percent of Committee meetings. Should the (4) coordinators provide a quarterly report to the Committee?

Florence said have the report to the Committee correspond with the RICCs biannual report to the Council.

Cebreco again suggested (5) a short survey to be available online. She will help formulate questions. Hall will get a coworker-survey expert at DCH to help with the survey.

Hylton would like to (6) see one diversity coordinator training per year.

Hylton said the Committee should review the current work plan over the summer for ideas for the next plan. Contact the Council office for a copy.

Members will (7) work with the grantee on the Committee's grant, Strengthening Relationships for Diversity. The RFP is available on the Council web site.

About the grant RFP, proposals are due June 28, and the bidder's conference is May 25. Members should be available for the review of the proposals on July 19, at 1:30, and the bidder's conference. Hall, Golden and Day will attend from the Committee.

#### Updates:

Allen reminded members that the Council's annual meeting/family gathering is July 11 at Hawk Island Park in Lansing.

Cebreco will attend the National Miss Wheelchair America Pageant, July 31 through Aug. 6 in Little Rock, Ark. Her platform is Elevating Diversity Inclusion. She'll get coverage on Fox and intends to have a conference with the Governor. So far, she's been featured in the *Detroit News* and *Oakland Press*.

Adjourned

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### ***Public Policy Committee***

April 11, 2006

#### Members Present

Andre Robison, Jane Spitzley, Terry Hunt, Jacqui Day, Dee Florence, Tandy Bidinger, Pam Hall, Marsha Moers, Ralph Moore, Jane Reagan, Deb Ziegler, Elmer Cerano



## Staff

Tandy Bidinger, Terry Hunt, Dee Florence

## Guest

Sheila Semler – MDCH-Oral Health

Chair Andre Robinson called the meeting to order at 9:02.

Motion by Jane Reagan to approve minutes, Pam Hall seconded.

## MICHIGAN

### Minimum Wage Increase

The minimum wage increase will affect long-term care, it is anticipated that this will create a \$20-\$30 million increase to Home Help programs, may also impact MI Choice **Waiver**.

## State Treasurer

Governor Granholm has appointed Robert Kleine as the new Director of the Michigan Department of Treasury.

## State Board of Education Update

Considering that the State Board of Education and the DD Council have their meeting on the same day each month, the Education Work Group will be asking the DD Council members to move at least some of the Council meeting dates. Jane Reagan will be checking with the State Board of Education to see when they will be scheduling their meeting for the next year.

Elmer Cerano moved that the PPC support the recommendations of the Education Work Group to help resolve the conflict in meeting dates between the DD Council and the State Board of Education. Marsha Moers seconded it. Motion Carried.

## Mt Pleasant Investigation

MPAS has launched an investigation into the death/murder of a young man who died at a Mt Pleasant facility. MPAS says the Attorney General is blocking their access to information about this incident.

## Long Term Care Conference/Commission

The Long-Term Care conference was held at the end of March. One of the largest growing groups is individuals with traumatic brain injuries. A large number of veterans coming home from the war in Iraq are returning with traumatic brain injuries due to the repercussion from explosions. This growing number will put a strain on the system.

Marsha Moers has been appointed Chair of the new Long-Term Care Commission. The next Commission meeting will be held on April 24 at the Capitol View Building at 1:00 pm. The public is invited to attend and give comments.

## FEDERAL

### Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Plan)

The May deadline to sign up for Medicare Part D may be extended, due to all the obstacles individuals are encountering but this would have to be approved by Congress

### Proposed Budget for 2007

The proposed cuts could be life threatening to some individuals. President Bush's budget includes an increase in co-pays and the permission for providers to turn away individuals if can't pay the co-pay, including hospitals. Basically, if Medicaid funding goes down so does funding for all of the community services. Jane Reagan emphasized that Medicaid helps pay the cost of school districts' health care for disabled students. These cuts are hitting every program. Now is the time to contact your legislators.

Considering this is a critical election year, many in Congress are pulling away from endorsing the cuts.

A.D.A.P.T.

ADAPT is an organization that focuses on disability issues. They have issued a National Alert. They would like individuals to rally or protest their local HUD office. They have proposed to HUD that a certain number of Section 8 vouchers should be set-aside for homeless people with disabilities to prevent them from unnecessarily being placed in a nursing home.

Guest Speaker

Sheila Semler, Ph.D., DCH Oral Health Coordinator addressed the Committee regarding Medicaid dental problems for adults, especially those with disabilities. The DD community is almost completely overlooked. Sheila is trying to get out and see what problems the DD community is encountering. She needs statistics of dental care needs of those with disabilities.

Many issues contribute to the dental needs of those with disabilities; transportation, dental offices not being accessible, and dentists not being properly trained to treat those with disabilities. U of M has developed a free online course for dentists to learn to treat DD patients.

Currently the Oral Health Program is funded by a grant from the Center for Disease Control. This grant expires in the near future, hopefully the State will allocate funds to continue this program.

An Oral Health Coalition has been formed to address oral health prevention and treatment issues in Michigan. The coalition is comprised of primary care providers, dental health providers, advocacy organizations, state and local government officials and consumers. Sheila stated the coalition needs more representation from persons with disabilities. However, there is a \$50 fee (dues)

for individuals to join the coalition and a larger fee for groups. The PPC informed Sheila that the \$50 dues fee is not affordable for many individuals with disabilities. Sheila suggested that the PPC write a letter to the coalition stating that we'd like to join the coalition but the \$50 fee is prohibitive.

Last fall, P.A. 161 was passed allowing a dental hygienist to perform dental hygiene services under the supervision of a dentist in long-term care facilities and schools. This is a great opportunity but there is an obstacle to implementing this, because dental hygienists cannot bill insurance companies or Medicaid.

#### DD Council 5 Year Plan

##### Project Development

"Informed Communities Project" RFP's are out. The idea is to try the project for a year or two. If we determine that we want to expand it, it could be presented at a future retreat that it is successful but needs more funding or more time.

Glenn then presented a project proposal from the Leadership Task Force for the DD State Plan.

Name of Project: Grassroots Civic Participation Teams

Purpose:

*To engage people with disabilities using a broader team approach in grassroots organizing and civic participation on political, public policy and system change issues within their communities. To use the team as a laboratory to build relationships and practice skills that will create system change in the wider community. To change perceptions so that people with disabilities are seen as an important community asset and constituency.*

Glenn stated that this project goes hand-in-hand with the “Informed Communities” and “Speak Out Replication” projects.

Elmer Cerano moved that the PPC co-sponsor the Leadership Task Force recommendations to the DD State Plan. Jane Reagan seconded. Motion Carried.

Suggestions for future meeting Agendas

- Invite MRS to meeting to discuss concerns, re: employment services
  - Invite MMAP Program Re: Medicare Part D Concerns
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### ***Transportation Work Group***

May 11, 2006

#### **PRESENT:**

Diane Kempen, Kathy Janego, Pam Hall, Joann Lucas, Sharen Blowers, Tandy Bidinger, Dee Florence

#### **VIA PHONE:**

*Flint:* Mae Golden, Gordon Siwula, Tiffany McIntire, Carl Fenner, Theresa Powierski, Marcie Dove, and Christine Hodgson

*Battle Creek:* Penny Campbell

*Iosco:* Sue Parent

*Kalamazoo:* Don Milbeck, John Galliger

*Grand Traverse:* Renee Mitchell

## Welcome and Introductions

Kathy Janego moved that the February 9, 2006 minutes be accepted. Mae Golden seconded.

Joan Lucas moved that the April 13, 2006 minutes be accepted. Mae Golden seconded with two name corrections; Gordon Suwila should be spelled Gordon Siwula and Tiffany McIntyre should be spelled Tiffany McIntire.

## New Business

### a. ***Legislative Update***

The Senate Transportation Subcommittee is conducting several public hearings regarding the FY 2006-2007 Michigan Department of Transportation budget. Tandy Bidinger attended the April 25, 2006 meeting and the only testimony on public transit was by an Amtrak representative. The next hearings will be held on May 16 and 23, 2006. Individuals from the TWG are encouraged to attend and testify. Diane Kempen, the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek RICCs will try to attend the May 16, 2006 hearing. The Iosco and Genesee RICC plan to attend the May 23, 2006 hearing.

### b. ***Representative Marie Donigan:***

Rep. Donigan has been instrumental in building a bridge between the Governor and Republican leaders enabling them to reach an agreement, which marries rapid transit financing and highway construction. This agreement views highways and transit as equally critical pieces of the state's development strategy. Included in the pact is a proposed Ann Arbor to Detroit transit line that is eligible for \$100 million in federal funding.

Due to Representative Donigan's outstanding work on behalf of public transportation the TWG decided to send her a certificate praising and honoring her for her hard work.

**c. *"Transportation 101" RFP***

Cheryl Trommater addressed the group, recruiting individuals to be grant reviewers for this RFP. The review group will meet on July 17, 2006 at 1:30 in the DD Council Conference room. The following individuals expressed interest, but will have to check their schedule; Pam Hall, Diane Kempen, Don Milbeck, Joann Lucas, Renee Mitchell and Sharen Blowers.

**Old Business**

**L.A.C:** The Capitol Area RICC planned to attend the Lansing LAC meeting to request holiday service. But the LAC meeting was cancelled due to construction. The next LAC meeting will be in June.

**MDOT Letter Action**

The TWG had drafted a letter to Kirk Steudle, the new MDOT Director suggesting that he encourage Governor Granholm to locate funds in the state budget, so that Michigan can receive matching federal dollars for our transit systems. It has been brought to the attention of the TWG that state funds have been allocated. Diane Kempen is going to investigate whether this information is correct before the letter is sent.

***Detroit Fare Increase:*** The City of Detroit is considering raising disability fares from no fare to 75¢ one way, (does not include transfers). Seniors would continue to ride free of charge. The question why did the Mayor choose to raise fares for people with disabilities and not seniors? Does he feel it will bring major funding for the City of Detroit? Pam Hall has agreed to contact a

representative at DDOT to further investigate the reasoning for singling out PWD.

### **Summer “Traveling Meeting”**

This years meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 3, 2006 in Escanaba, MI. The Delta RICC has volunteered to host this years “traveling meeting”. It will be a combination RICC regional meeting and transportation work group meeting, with ½ the day being the regional meeting and ½ the day being TWG meeting. The meeting will be held at Bay College in Escanaba. Sharon Blowers moved that an official request for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual TWG Traveling meeting be presented to the Council. Joanne Lucas seconded.

### **DD Council Retreat** (New Project Proposals)

The date to present the proposals has been changed to June 13, 2006. Kathy Janego was scheduled to present the brokerage proposal but is now unable to present, due to a schedule conflict. Doug Anderson originally volunteered to assist Kathy with the presentation so he will be contacted to see if he can make the presentation in Kathy’s absence.

### Success Stories

***Kalamazoo:*** Recently, a fixed route bus in Kalamazoo caught on fire.

There were eight passengers on the bus and the driver cut the power and got everyone off safely.

***Genesee:*** On May 5, 2006 the Disability network held a memorial for David Tyler. The memorial had a successful turnout and David is greatly missed.

**Battle Creek:** Penny Campbell



**losco:** Sue Parent has been appointed Chair of the local LAC. Meeting will be held quarterly with the next meeting being in July.

**Adjourned.**

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### ***Program Committee***

April 11, 2006

**Present:** Melinda Haus, Barbara Leroy, Mellissa Anderson, Theresa Arini, Diane Kempen, Bud Beebe

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**Staff:** Glenn Ashley, Cheryl Trommater, Tracy Vincent

**Guest:** Theresa Squires

**Issue:** Welcome, Introductions

**Action:** N.A.

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**Issue:** Housekeeping: Minutes of the March 14, 2006 meeting.

**Action:** March 14 minutes approved by consensus.

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**Issue:** RFP "Information and Tools" Draft Revision

**Action:** Will be postponed until a later meeting.

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**Issue:** Recruit Diverse Committee Membership

**Action:** Two RICC members are on the mailing list. Letters were sent to the RICCs by email to join the committee. Let Program Committee staff know if you have any interested people or connection to an organization of diverse populations. Issue is transportation to get here. Suggestion to establish a written policy for Council to pay for transportation expenses. If there is no policy in place, Theresa will write a draft and bring to the next meeting.

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**Issue:** Grant Project Reports

**Action:** Melinda Haus and Theresa Squires reported on leadership projects.

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**Issue:** Is there something

**Action:** some

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**Issue:** Recommendations to the DD Council

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- Dissemination Policy
- Preservation Policy and Procedure

**Action:** The Executive Committee approved both policies at their March 28 meeting. Cheryl distributed a rough outline of the schedule of procedures. Work on this is scheduled to start around October 2006. It may be possible to purchase the equipment by the end of this fiscal year. Produce a list of what we have and distribute that information to the RICCs.

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**Issue:** Updates - RFPs

**Action:** The RFP for Informed Communities, "Speak Out" Replication, RICC-Endorsed Community mini-grants, Family and Supports Coordinators Meetings, and Alliance with Construction Industry to Increase Accessible Housing are posted on the Council's web site. The RFP calendar will be on the DD Council website soon

**Action:** Planning – Projects under development. Project with Disability Voice is underway to build on Town Hall Forums centered around what needs to be put in the next DD State Plan. Mitzi will be sending out Plan Recommendations to Council members within the next week for the May Retreat.

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**Issue:** Adjourn

**Action:** Adjourned

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